



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 490

LCO No. 2611

02611_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO CERTAIN
STATUTES RELATING TO REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 The election officials of each polling place, except voting machine
4 mechanics, shall be electors of the town and shall consist of one
5 moderator, two official checkers, [two registrars of voters or] two
6 assistant registrars of voters [, as the case may be,] of opposite political
7 parties, not more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have
8 appointed challengers pursuant to section 9-232, and [at least one and
9 not more than two] one voting machine [tenders] tender for each
10 voting machine in use at the polling place. A known candidate for any
11 office shall not serve as an election official on election day or serve at
12 the polls in any capacity, except that a municipal clerk or a registrar of
13 voters, who is a candidate for the same office, may perform his official
14 duties. If, in the opinion of the municipal officials, the public
15 convenience of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision

16 shall be made for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling
17 place and, if more than one line of electors is established, two
18 additional official checkers for each line of electors shall be appointed
19 and, if more than one machine is used in a polling place, [at least one
20 and not more than two additional] one voting machine tenders shall be
21 appointed for each additional machine so used. Head moderators,
22 central counting moderators, absentee ballot counters and voting
23 machine mechanics appointed pursuant to law shall also be deemed
24 election officials. No election official shall perform services for any
25 party or candidate on election day.

26 Sec. 2. Section 9-232e of the general statutes is repealed and the
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

28 Any person requesting a challenged ballot and entitled thereto shall
29 announce his name to the checkers who shall [cross his name off the
30 registry list and add it with his address to the end of the official list
31 where it shall be designated "Challenged Ballot" and serially
32 numbered] write before such person's name "CB" for Challenged Ballot
33 and not marked as voting in person on the voting machine. The
34 challenged ballot shall be an absentee ballot. After the voter has so
35 announced his name, the moderator shall deliver to such voter a
36 challenged ballot together with an envelope marked "Challenged
37 Ballot" and serially numbered. The challenged voter shall forthwith
38 mark the ballot in the presence of the [moderator] polling place
39 officials in such manner that the [moderator] polling place officials
40 shall not know how the ballot is marked. He shall then fold the ballot
41 in the presence of the moderator so as to conceal the markings and
42 deposit and seal it in the serially-numbered envelope. He shall then
43 deliver such envelope to the moderator. The moderator shall retain all
44 such envelopes in an envelope prescribed by the Secretary of the State
45 and provided by the municipal clerk which he shall seal immediately
46 following the close of the polls.

47 Sec. 3. Section 9-263 of the general statutes is repealed and the

48 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

49 If any voting machine used in any voting district, during the time
 50 the polls are open, becomes damaged so as to render it inoperative in
 51 whole or in part, the moderator shall immediately give notice thereof
 52 to the registrars of voters under whose direction the machine was
 53 prepared under section 9-243 and such registrars, if possible, shall
 54 substitute a perfect machine for the damaged machine, and, at the
 55 close of the polls, the records of both machines shall be taken and the
 56 votes shown on their counters shall be added together in ascertaining
 57 and determining the result of the election. If no other machine is in use
 58 in the polling place such registrars shall immediately permit the use by
 59 the electors of emergency paper ballots provided by the municipal
 60 clerk to the moderator pursuant to section 9-259. Such ballots shall be
 61 received by the election officials and placed by them in a receptacle to
 62 be provided therefor and counted with the votes registered on the
 63 voting machine and the result declared in the same manner as if there
 64 had been no accident to the voting machine. The emergency paper
 65 ballot shall be an absentee ballot. Emergency paper ballots shall be cast
 66 in the following manner. The elector shall announce the elector's name
 67 to the official checkers who shall [cross the elector's name off the
 68 registry list and add it with the elector's address to the end of] mark
 69 the official checklist with "EPB" in front of the elector's name to [where
 70 it shall] be designated "Emergency Paper Ballot". [or "EPB" and serially
 71 numbered.] After the elector has so announced the elector's name, the
 72 moderator shall deliver to such elector an emergency paper ballot
 73 together with the serially numbered envelope. The elector shall
 74 forthwith mark the ballot in the presence of the [moderator] polling
 75 place officials in such manner that the [moderator] polling place
 76 officials shall not know how the ballot is marked. The elector shall then
 77 fold the ballot in the presence of the [moderator] polling place officials
 78 so as to conceal the markings and deposit and seal it in the serially
 79 numbered envelope. The elector shall then deliver the envelope to the
 80 moderator who shall place it in a specially designated depository
 81 envelope. The emergency paper ballots thus received shall be counted

82 at the next scheduled absentee ballot count in the same manner as
 83 other absentee ballots, provided no such ballot may be counted unless
 84 all provisions of this section have been complied with. Such ballots so
 85 counted shall be preserved by replacing them into the special
 86 depository envelopes along with a certificate signed by the moderator
 87 and registrars of voters setting forth the circumstances under which
 88 such emergency paper ballots were cast. Use of emergency paper
 89 ballots shall be discontinued immediately upon replacement or repair
 90 of at least one machine, provided no repair shall be made on a voting
 91 machine on which any vote was cast, unless such repair would not
 92 affect the manner in which votes are recorded on such machine, as
 93 provided in subsection (b) of section 9-246.

94 Sec. 4. Section 9-264 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

96 (a) An elector who requires assistance to vote, by reason of
 97 blindness, disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, may be
 98 given assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than (1) the
 99 elector's employer, (2) an agent of such employer or (3) an officer or
 100 agent of the elector's union. The person assisting the elector may
 101 accompany the elector into the voting machine booth. Such person
 102 shall register such elector's vote upon the machine as such elector
 103 directs. Any person accompanying an elector into the voting machine
 104 booth who deceives any elector in registering his vote under this
 105 section or seeks to influence any elector while in the act of voting, or
 106 who registers any vote for any elector or on any question other than as
 107 requested by such elector, or who gives information to any person as
 108 to what person or persons such elector voted for, or how he voted on
 109 any question, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or
 110 imprisoned not more than five years or both.

111 (b) Paper ballots provided by the municipal clerk to the moderator
 112 pursuant to section 9-259 shall be made available for electors with
 113 disabilities in polling places in which a voting machine cannot be

114 adjusted to allow all necessary parts to be reached from a chair. Such
 115 paper ballots shall be used at the option of the elector with disabilities.
 116 The elector shall announce the elector's name to the official checkers
 117 who shall [cross the elector's name off the registry list and add it with
 118 the elector's address to the end of the official checklist where it shall
 119 be] mark the official checklist with "PBD" in front of the elector's name
 120 to be designated "paper ballot for persons with disabilities". [or "PBD"
 121 and serially numbered.] After the elector has so announced the
 122 elector's name, the moderator shall deliver to the elector an absentee
 123 ballot and a serially-numbered envelope. The elector shall forthwith
 124 mark the ballot in the presence of the [moderator] polling place
 125 officials in such manner that the [moderator] polling place officials
 126 shall not know how the ballot is marked. The elector shall fold the
 127 ballot in the presence of the [moderator] polling place officials so as to
 128 conceal the markings and deposit and seal it in the serially-numbered
 129 envelope. The elector shall deliver the envelope to the moderator who
 130 shall place it in a specially-designated depository envelope. The paper
 131 ballots thus received shall be counted at the next scheduled absentee
 132 ballot count in the same manner as other absentee ballots. Such ballots
 133 so counted shall be preserved by placing them in the depository
 134 envelopes with the regular absentee ballots, and such serially-
 135 numbered envelopes shall be placed in the depository envelopes with
 136 the regular absentee ballot envelopes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	9-258
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	9-232e
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	9-263
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	9-264

Statement of Purpose:

To make certain conforming changes to the elections statutes regarding the requirement that registrars of voters be in their office on election day and to alter certain procedures relating to persons who vote by means of a challenged, emergency or paper ballot.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]